

REMARKS

Claims 4, 5, 15, 16, 23, 45 and 56 are amended. Claims 2, 12 and 48 are canceled. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the original and other claims in this and other applications.

Claims 2, 5-12, 16-23, 30-33, 45-47, 49-57 and 59 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsunoshita (U.S. Pat. No. 7,227,661) in view of Okubo (U.S. Pat. No. 5,647,010). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The Office Action states that claims 4, 15 and 48 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. (Office Action, pg. 7). Claims 4 and 15 have been rewritten in independent form and claims 2 and 12 canceled. Claims 23 and 45 have been amended to incorporate the allowable features of claim 48 and claim 48 canceled. Claims 5-12 and 56 depend from claim 4, claims 16-23 from claim 15, claims 30-33 and 57 from claim 23, and claims 46-47, 49-55 and 59 from claim 45. All pending claims are therefore believed to be allowable. Accordingly, the rejection and objection should be withdrawn.

As to the outstanding obviousness-type double patenting rejections over commonly-owned U.S. Patent 6,901,236 and co-pending applications 10/922,924, 10/982,976 and 10/738,139, these rejections are respectfully traversed. All claims of the cited patents and co-pending applications fail to teach or suggest “a second pattern detecting mechanism configured to detect a background dot pattern embedded in a background image included in image data of an original image from the image data and store the detected background dot pattern as an anti-copy background dot pattern in a memory”—the very limitation the Office has indicated is allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the rejections should be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

In view of the above, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance. If there are any additional fees or charges due in connection with this filing, the Examiner is respectfully requested and authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 04-1073 under Order No. R2180.0162/P162.

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Respectfully submitted,

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